NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino Josie Gonzales Fifth District

http://www.sbcounty.gov/gonzales

AUGUST 6, 2013



JGFDS-PR-299 BOARD ACCEPTS GRANT FUNDS FOR SPAY-NEUTER PROGRAM FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT DAN FLORES AT (909) 387-4565

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COUNTY ACCEPTS \$15,000 GRANT TO SPAY-NEUTER PITBULLS

SAN BERNARDINO – Today, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors approved a grant award of \$15,000 from the California Department of Food and Agriculture for the 2013 Municipal Spay-Neuter Grant Fund. Grant funds will be used to help offset the cost for unincorporated pet owners to spay and neuter Pit Bull breeds.

"As pet owners, we have to take responsibility for our animals – that includes spaying or neutering our pets," said Supervisor Josie Gonzales. "Every year, thousands of animals come through the County's shelter system. If we can reduce that number, we will not only generate savings for taxpayers, we will reduce the number of animals euthanized and help increase pet adoptions."

In 2012, more than 14,000 animals were admitted to the County's animal shelter system. Pit Bulls are the number one breed of dogs admitted to the County's animal shelters. In an effort to reduce the number of Pit Bulls entering the shelter system, the County applied for state funds to help reduce the cost for local pet owners to spay or neuter their dogs. This award marks the third year in a row that the County has received grant funds from the Department of Food and Agriculture.

County Animal Care & Control currently provides \$50 vouchers to pet owners in unincorporated areas to spay or neuter their dogs. With this grant award, eligible Pit Bull owners will receive an additional \$30 voucher, bringing the total savings to \$80 per Pit Bull. Brian Cronin, Chief of San Bernardino County Animal Care and Control, stated "this is a wonderful opportunity for the owners of Pit Bull type dogs to have their pets sterilized at a significantly reduced rate and to allow the owners of Pit Bull type dogs the opportunity to comply with the County's mandatory Pit Bull sterilization ordinance."

For more information regarding the County's spay/neuter voucher program, please call the Pet Overpopulation Coalition (POPCO) at 1-888-767-2550 which provides spay/neuter program assistance and support in both San Bernardino and Riverside Counties or visit Animal Care and Control's website at: www.sbcounty.gov/dph/acc/

###